

#### 4-1. Form and Make of Clubs

- a. General

The player's clubs must conform with this Rule and the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in Appendix II.

*Note:* The Committee may require, in the conditions of a competition ([Rule 33-1](#)), that any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

- b. Wear and Alteration

A club that conforms with the Rules when new is deemed to conform after wear through normal use. Any part of a club that has been purposely altered is regarded as new and must, in its altered state, conform with the Rules.

#### 4-2. Playing Characteristics Changed and Foreign Material

- a. Playing Characteristics Changed

During a [stipulated round](#), the playing characteristics of a club must not be purposely changed by adjustment or by any other means.

- b. Foreign Material

Foreign material must not be applied to the club face for the purpose of influencing the movement of the ball.

*\*PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF RULE 4-1 or 4-2:*

- Match play — At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round — Two holes.
- Stroke play — Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round — Four strokes.
- Match or stroke play — In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
- Bogey and par competitions — See Note 1 to [Rule 32-1a](#).
- Stableford competitions — See Note 1 to [Rule 32-1b](#).

\*Any club or clubs carried in breach of Rule 4-1 or 4-2 must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his [marker](#) or a [fellow-competitor](#) in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, he is disqualified.

*PENALTY FOR making stroke with club in BREACH OF RULE 4-1 or 4-2: Disqualification.*

#### 4-3. Damaged Clubs: Repair and Replacement

- a. Damage in Normal Course of Play

If, during a stipulated round, a player's club is damaged in the normal course of play, he may:

- (i) use the club in its damaged state for the remainder of the stipulated round; or
- (ii) without unduly delaying play, repair it or have it repaired; or
- (iii) *as an additional option available only if the club is unfit for play*, replace the damaged club with any club. The replacement of a club must not unduly delay play and must not be made by borrowing any club selected for play by any other person playing on the course.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3a: See Penalty Statements for Rule 4-4a or b and Rule 4-4c.*

*Note:* A club is unfit for play if it is substantially damaged, e.g., the shaft is dented, significantly bent or broken into pieces; the clubhead becomes loose, detached or significantly deformed; or the grip becomes loose. A club is not unfit for play solely because the club's lie or loft has been altered, or the clubhead is scratched.

- b. Damage Other Than in Normal Course of Play

If, during a stipulated round, a player's club is damaged other than in the normal course of play rendering it non-conforming or changing its playing characteristics, the club must not subsequently be used or replaced during the round.

- c. Damage Prior to Round

A player may use a club damaged prior to a round, provided the club, in its damaged state, conforms with the Rules. Damage to a club that occurred prior to a round may be repaired during the round, provided the playing characteristics are not changed and play is not unduly delayed.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3b or c: Disqualification.*

(Undue delay — see [Rule 6-7](#).)

#### **4-4. Maximum of 14 Clubs**

- a. Selection and Addition of Clubs

The player must not start a stipulated round with more than 14 clubs. He is limited to the clubs thus selected for that round, except that if he started with fewer than 14 clubs, he may add any number, provided his total number does not exceed 14.

The addition of a club or clubs must not unduly delay play (Rule 6-7) and the player must not add or borrow any club selected for play by any other person playing on the [course](#).

- b. Partners May Share Clubs

[Partners](#) may share clubs, provided that the total number of clubs carried by the partners so sharing does not exceed 14.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-4a or b, REGARDLESS OF NUMBER OF EXCESS CLUBS CARRIED:*

- Match play — At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round: Two holes.
- Stroke play — Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round: Four strokes.
- Bogey and par competitions — See Note 1 to [Rule 32-1a](#).
- Stableford competitions — See Note 1 to [Rule 32-1b](#).

- c. Excess Club Declared Out of Play

Any club or clubs carried or used in breach of Rule 4-3a(iii) or Rule 4-4 must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. The player must not use the club or clubs for the remainder of the stipulated round.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-4c: Disqualification.*